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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|-----------------|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 10/786,839 | 02/25/2004 | Parviz Tayebati | 15436.1248.3.1 | 2957 |

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| EXAMINER |
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| ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
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2828

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| MAIL DATE | DELIVERY MODE |
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08/14/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments filed 07/21/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant has argued that the etalon of Frankel does not correct for any aberrations introduced by the grating/prism combination and hence does not restore quality and shape of light from the lasers.

The Examiner does not agree. As the Applicant has pointed out (Remarks, pg.7) the prism (#22) is used to change the effective wavelength of light in the grating by adjusting the refractive index ([0023]). The etalon is then used to narrow the linewidth and stabilize the emission wavelength ([0024]). The Applicant's characterization of the filtering function of the etalon is believed to be correct, but this function can also be considered to correct for aberrations in prism/grating #22. The quality and shape from #22 is that of a widened spectrum of light. Etalon #26 then reduces the spectrum and stabilizes the emission wavelength. This is a corrective feature used to ensure proper system output by making changes to the input from the prism #22. Therefore, etalon #26 can be considered to correct for aberrations and restore the quality and shape (spectrum) of the light produced.